

# Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council

## Serving the Communities of:

Auburn City  
North Auburn  
Newcastle  
Penryn  
Ophir  
Bowman



## Minutes

**Date:** July 19, 2019

**Time:** Called to order at 9:01 am

**Location:** City of Auburn, City Hall  
1225 Lincoln Way, Room #10  
Auburn CA. 95603

### 1. Call to Order:

Attendance: Daniel Berlant, Danielle Hardesty, Frank Udvarhely, Kathy Baxter, Keri Askew Bailey, Bob Snyder, Richard Hadley. Absent: Kevin Hanley.

Guests: Chief Dave Spencer, Heidi Rietjens, Art Berliner, John Hutchings, Jane Wurst, Sharon Piello, Deline Ruud, Jenny Johnson, Jack Farless, Lynne Tenei, Micheal Booth, Luana Dowling, John Hutchings, Jon Anacker, Mary Eldridge, Alexia Retallack, Chuck Heisleman, Tim Kenett, Jim Bennett, Christina Meddlers, Jerry Curso, Cindy Whitson.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** The 6/21/19 minutes were approved, Richard Hadley abstaining.

4. **Public Comment:** Jane Wurst and several residents expressed concerns about delays in the county producing the Environmental Impact Report for the proposed expansion of the Hidden Falls Park and that the group Protect Rural Placer supports a ban on all new trails. Lynne Tenei suggested that future agenda items include a discussion of insurance costs and cancellations and the weed abatement enforcement process. Jack Farless expressed concerns about trees verse weed abatement on the Rancheria property adjacent to his HOA. He also expressed concerns about UP RR lack of maintenance on property adjacent to HOA.

### 5. Strategic Plan Implementation:

a. New GAAFSC Member. Richard Hadley introduced himself.

b. USDA-NRCD Landowner Program. Employees with the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office in Auburn discussed the Placer Co. Program previously open only to ag producers now has offshoot (EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentive Program) for homeowners (or those with leasehold interest and property owner approval) to access reimbursement grants for clearing and fire prevention work. Provided written materials. Funding cycle is October (ish) so paperwork process and plan creation should begin now. Also discussed Resources Conservation District program where, upon approval, waste company will deliver bins to a neighborhood to fill with green waste. They are picked up at no cost. 20 yd or 30 yd containers. Intended to encourage clearing by homeowners and property owners. No commercial projects.

c. Pioneer Energy. Employees with Pioneer Energy discussed their partnership with PG&E on the effort to publicize public safety power shutoff and encourage preparedness. Goal is fire protection. Pioneer has a page on their web site for preparation guidance and resources. OES presentations on the topic are ongoing in the region. PGE to hold a webinar on 21<sup>st</sup> and it will be recorded so folks can playback. Outage times vary based on what lines are de-activated and where they are. And of course on the weather conditions.

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### 6. **Agency and Stakeholder Reports:**

- a. CALFIRE. Mary Eldridge provided an update on the North Fork Fuel Break, which stretches from Colfax to Auburn. Crews are clearing 3 acres a day. Several local fires have been put out quickly.
- b. Auburn Fire. Chief Spencer discussed residential property inspections, weed abatement complaints including several related to land owned by UP and that he is discussing with the United Auburn Indian Community regarding vegetation clearance work on tribal land in Auburn.
- c. Penryn Fire – no report.
- d. Newcastle Fire – no report.
- e. Placer Co. No report.
- f. US BOR. John Hutchings is drafting an update on the fuel clearance prescription for the American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break. The width of the SFB will likely expand from 300 feet to 600 feet. He is working on extending the SFB another mile from the Foresthill Bridge to the CALFIRE Bowman Fire Station. He is working with Placer RCD and Auburn Fire Department on using the CALFIRE grant to do fuel work on the SFB.
- g. State Parks. No report.
- h. Fire Alliance & Firewise. Luana Dowling reported that the Placer Board of Supervisors sent a letter to the Insurance Commissioner regarding non-renewals of insurance in the county. The North Auburn/Ophir Fire Safe Council is forming. There are 26 firesafe communities in Placer County. She is working with Vintage Oaks and the County Club estates on establishing firewise communities.

7. **Roundtable:** Frank Udvarhelyi discussed a town hall he has been working on with an insurance company in town. Heidi Reijens reported that her daughter, who works with ACRT, a tree trimming contractor for PG&E, has inspected 2,600 transmission lines and moved 6,300 trees. Bob Snyder mentioned that the Placer Board of Supervisors on August 20 will be holding a hearing on the Middle Fork Project and encouraged people to attend and advocate for more fuel reduction funding. Luana Dowling reported that she is organizing a legislature tour of the Middle Fork.

8. **Adjourn:** 10:15 am.